each R^5 independently is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkoxy, Het-C_{0-6}alkoxy, or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^6 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl and R^7 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, $R^5C(O)$-, $R^5C(S)$-, R^5SO_2-, $R^5OC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(S)$-, R'HNCH(R')C(O)-, or $R^5OC(O)NR'CH(R')C(O)$-; or R^6 and R^7 are connected to form a pyrrolidine, a piperidine, or a morpholine ring;

each R' independently is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

R* is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

Y is a single bond or O;

each Z independently is CO or CH_2; and

n is 0, 1, or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15, 18-25, and 34 are rejected and claims 16 and 17 are objected to. The Examiner also objected to the abstract of disclosure. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 and submitted a replacement abstract. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned: **"Version with markings to show changes made."** Applicants' response to the Examiner's objections and rejections is as follows.

I. Objection to the Specification

The abstract of disclosure is objected to because it is longer than 150 words. A replacement abstract, that is shorter than 150 words, is enclosed.

II. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-15, 18-25 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants' response to the Examiner's two-part rejection is given below.

a. Claim 1 recites substituents having C_{0-6}alkyl or C_{0-6}alkoxy which are indefinite because an alkyl or alkoxy group cannot have zero carbon. Applicants submit that the claims should be read in light of what is written in the specification. On page 7, lines 19-24, of the specification clear definitions of C_{0-6}alkyl and C_{0-6}alkoxy are given. Thus, ArC_{0-6}alkyl would represent an aryl group without an alkyl side chain or an aryl group with an alkyl side chain containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms. In light of the definitions given in the specification, claim 1 is not indefinite and Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

b. There is double inclusion in the definition of R^5. For example, when R^5 is defined as C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by $R'NC(O)OR^5$...". Applicants have amended claim 1 so that there is no longer a double inclusion. In light of the amendment to the claim, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Objections

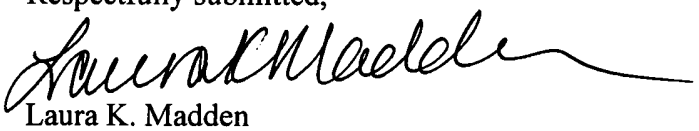
Claims 16 and 17 are objected to, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 16 and 17 depend on claim 1 which was rejected by the Examiner. Applicants will address the objection of claims 16 and 17 after the Examiner has considered the amendments and arguments made above.

IV. Conclusion

This reply is intended to distinctly and specifically point out presumed errors in the Examiner's Action, to respond to every ground of objection and rejection, and to advance this case to allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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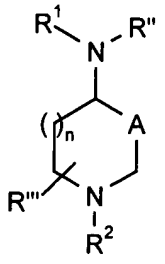
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

A replacement abstract has been submitted, therefore a marked-up version is not necessary.

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A compound according to formula (I):

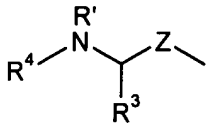


(I)

wherein:

A is C(O) or CH(OH);

R^1 is



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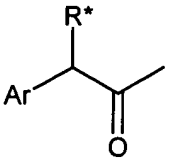

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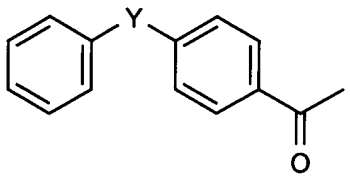
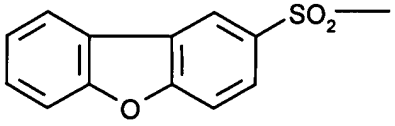
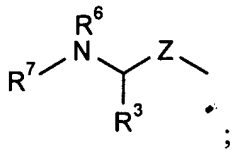


, or



;

R^2 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, $R^5C(O)$-, $R^5C(S)$-, R^5SO_2-, $R^5OC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(S)$-, adamantyl-C(O)-, or



;

R'' is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

R''' is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

each R^3 independently is H, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, Het, Ar or C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by OR', SR', NR'_2, $R'NC(O)OR^5$, CO_2R', $CO_2NR'_2$, $N(C=NH)NH_2$, Het or Ar;

R^4 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, $R^5C(O)$-, $R^5C(S)$-, R^5SO_2-, $R^5OC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(S)$-, R'HNCH(R')C(O)-, or $R^5OC(O)NR'CH(R')C(O)$-;

each R^5 independently is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkoxy, Het-C_{0-6}alkoxy, or C_{1-6}alkyl ~~optionally substituted by OR', SR', NR'_2, $R'NC(O)OR^5$, CO_2R', $CO_2NR'_2$, $N(C=NH)NH_2$, Het or Ar~~ ;

R^6 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl and R^7 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, Het-C_{0-6}alkyl, $R^5C(O)$-, $R^5C(S)$-, R^5SO_2-, $R^5OC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(O)$-, $R^5R'NC(S)$-, R'HNCH(R')C(O)-, or $R^5OC(O)NR'CH(R')C(O)$-; or R^6 and R^7 are connected to form a pyrrolidine, a piperidine, or a morpholine ring;

each R' independently is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

R* is H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{0-6}alkyl, Ar-C_{0-6}alkyl, or Het-C_{0-6}alkyl;

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